

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
Lt. Governor



State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512
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SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Deputy to the Chairperson

TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

February 26, 2015
1:30 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 308

HOUSE BILL NO. 850 HD 1
RELATING TO THE AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE

Chairperson Luke and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 850 HD 1. This bill appropriates moneys for critical positions in the UH College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources Cooperative Extension Service. The Department is in support of this bill.

Extension agents play a critical role in providing education and on-the-ground outreach to our farmers and ranchers. In the past, they have served as key resources helping farmers to deal with pest issues and to provide practical applications for research being conducted at the university. Extension agents also serve as a conduit through which greater ties between the community and the agricultural industry can be formed.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony.



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Council Services Division
4396 Rice Street, Suite 209
Līhu'e, Kaua'i, Hawai'i 96766

February 24, 2015

**TESTIMONY OF KIPUKAI KUALI'I
COUNCILMEMBER, KAUAI COUNTY COUNCIL
ON**

**HB 850, HD 1, Relating to the Agricultural Extension Service
House Committee on Finance
Thursday, February 26, 2015
1:30 p.m.
Conference Room 308**

Dear Chair Luke and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of HB 850, HD 1, Relating to the Agricultural Extension Service. My testimony is submitted in my capacity as the Economic Development & Intergovernmental Relations Committee Chair and as an individual Councilmember on the Kaua'i County Council.

The University of Hawai'i College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources Cooperative Extension Service works very closely with the Kaua'i County Farm Bureau, and are partners in various agricultural events for Kaua'i's community. Many events not only provide educational opportunities for farmers and ranchers, but invite the *keiki* to experience various environmental and agricultural fields of work. Appropriating funds to support critical unfunded positions in the program will continue the one-on-one experience between farmers/ranchers and representatives from the program, and will continue providing valuable tools for the public to strengthen the agricultural community and the agricultural economy.

For the reasons stated above, I strongly encourage the House Committee on Finance to support this measure. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Council Services Staff at (808) 241-4188.

Sincerely,

KIPUKAI KUALI'I
Councilmember, Kaua'i County Council



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Finance
Thursday, February 26, 2015 at 1:30 pm

By

Robert Bley-Vroman, Chancellor

And

Maria Gallo, Dean

And

J. Kenneth Grace, Associate Dean
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HB 850 HD1 – RELATING TO THE AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and members of the House Committee on Finance, thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 850 HD1, which provides funding for critical positions in the Cooperative Extension Service under the direction of the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.

We strongly support this bill provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in the University's Board of Regents Approved Executive Biennium Budget.

The Cooperative Extension Service is the means by which the Land Grant university system extends the results of research to directly assist agriculture and the public in each state. Among the 50 states, Hawai'i is virtually unique in supporting agricultural research and extension, along with all other university functions, solely through the single budget line of the University of Hawai'i. In recognition of the unique nature of agricultural extension, and to a lesser extent agricultural research, other states choose to provide a budget line specifically for these core Land Grant activities. In the absence of such a funding mechanism, extension service functions potentially suffer to a greater extent than other university functions during periods of fiscal austerity. Tuition-driven university budget models may also have the unforeseen effect of disincentivizing extension functions.

Hawai'i is also unique among all the states in that the four county governments make no set contribution to the costs of the extension service. The program funding that several are willing to provide is greatly appreciated, but core infrastructure support is absent.

As a result of the above-described factors, the extension faculty workforce in the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources has decreased 43% over the past 20 years, and 27% over the past six years alone. Retirements and resignations are a normal occurrence, but the present budget situation prevents replacement of many

vacant positions. Again, a focus on university budget reductions and increasing tuition revenue does not support extension staffing at optimal levels.

At the same time, the legislature and the people of Hawai'i have an increasing sense of urgency with respect to food security. This includes a need for accelerated training to assist new farmers, with an emphasis on farming practices that will decrease Hawai'i's need for imported and expensive farming inputs; and a concomitant need to ensure that appropriate good agriculture practices are followed and safe food reaches our plates. In order to reduce our reliance on imported food, and also ensure that farming in Hawai'i remains a viable occupation, our farmers need to be well-trained in both farm/ranch production methods and in practices that will ensure the safety of the food they produce without increasing production costs unreasonably.

Each of the positions identified in the bill represents a state need, and will serve as a resource across the state, as well as filling manpower gaps within their home county and freeing time on the part of current agents to provide better service to their agricultural clientele. In addition to filling immediate needs, HB 850 HD1 provides the time needed to work on inclusion of extension functions in the budget models currently being developed within the university.

HB 850 HD1 would strengthen the eroding agricultural extension infrastructure in Hawai'i by appropriating \$700,000 per year for eight temporary extension agent positions, two in each county, for a two year period. We recognize that there are many demands on the legislature, and even one position in each county (four positions total), at half of this amount, would help to alleviate current shortages.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support of HB 850 HD1.



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February 26, 2015

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

TESTIMONY ON HB 850, HD 1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE

Room 308
1:30 PM

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and Members of the Committee:

I am Christopher Manfredi, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,932 farm family members statewide, and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interest of our diverse agricultural community.

HFB strongly supports HB 850, HD 1, which appropriates moneys for critical positions in the University of Hawaii, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) Cooperative Extension Service.

The excellent work performed by UH CTAHR's cooperative extension service cannot be overstated. The ongoing outreach and education is unparalleled in the State. Farmers and ranchers rely on this program for their very success. Identifying education regarding agricultural sciences and food safety as priorities is important; particularly the latter which will presumably help producers navigate the myriad regulations reflected in the USFDA Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA). Please allocate all necessary resources toward this critically important program. Agriculture in Hawaii depends upon it.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support on this measure of vital importance.

finance8-Melanie

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 24, 2015 8:40 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: warrenmcfb@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB850 on Feb 26, 2015 13:30PM*

HB850

Submitted on: 2/24/2015

Testimony for FIN on Feb 26, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Warren Watanabe	Maui County Farm Bureau	Support	No

Comments:

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finance1-Kim

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To: FINTestimony
Cc: darakawa@lurf.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB850 on Feb 26, 2015 13:30PM

HB850

Submitted on: 2/24/2015

Testimony for FIN on Feb 26, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Z. Arakawa	Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii	Support	No

Comments: The Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii SUPPORTS HB 850, HD1, Relating to the Agricultural Extension Service, which appropriates funds for critical positions in the Cooperative Extension Service administered by the UH College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources. (HB850 HD1)

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To: FINTestimony
Cc: gottlieb@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB850 on Feb 26, 2015 13:30PM*

HB850

Submitted on: 2/24/2015

Testimony for FIN on Feb 26, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alan Gottlieb	Hawaii Cattlemen's Council	Support	No

Comments:

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SB 314/ HB 850 FUNDING OF THE UH CTAHR COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto and members of the House Finance Committee, I thank you for this opportunity to provide my personal testimony in support of SB314/HB850 relating to the Cooperative Extension Service of the University of Hawaii, at Manoa, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources. I strongly support this bill provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in the University's Board of Regents Approved Executive Biennium Budget. Let me state from the onset of this testimony that, as a member of the faculty at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, it is important to note that I support the prioritization process that the administration utilizes to establish their annual budgetary request to the legislature and can only advocate for additional funding of university programs if it does not negatively impact existing requests that are included in the executive budget.

My name is Jari Sugano and I am a County Extension Agent at UH Manoa, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources. Today, I am providing personal testimony. Each land grant university has a federally mandated Cooperative Extension Service (CES) associated with its institution to disseminate research-based information to the public at large. The College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) serves as the land grant college of the University of Hawai'i (UH). Historically, individuals, organizations, and communities have turned to the CTAHR for assistance in developing solutions to their critical and emerging problems.

Agriculture in Hawaii that was once dominated by the sugar and pineapple industry has shifted towards a diversified agricultural system. Small acreage and family owned farms now account for majority of Hawaii's agriculture industry. Based on the 2007 USDA Census of Hawaii Agriculture, sixty-four percent of farms in Hawaii are less than 10 acres in size. Eighty-five percent of farms are individually or family operated. New pests and diseases continue to invade Hawaii's borders, regulations intensify, marketing issues become more complex, and growers are faced with new challenges that threaten the expansion and advancement of Hawaii's diversified agriculture sector. A change in Hawaii's agriculture industry has prompted a need for responsive, cooperative educational programs in responsible farming, marketing, pest management, and environmental stewardship.

The economic success of producers relies on their ability to adapt farming principles and practices to integrate latest and relevant technology and research developments. UH CTAHR Cooperative Extension Service utilizes a variety of delivery methods or channels to bring the latest research based information to the attention of clients. This includes the utilization of extension agents.

Extension agents transfer research based information, knowledge, and skills that help agricultural producers correctly choose and utilize specific technology and practices best suited to meet their diverse educational needs (Bennett, 1990). This information enables agricultural producers to make informed decisions. The UH CTAHR Cooperative Extension Service serves four counties in Hawaii, which are located on 5 islands within the Hawaiian island chain. Agents are limited in numbers, geographically separated and must deal with diverse conditions unique to each location. Further, agricultural research that applies to the continental United States is not always applicable to Hawaii's conditions.

Continued applied research, on farm field trials, and retention of Extension agent positions are needed to fill vacancy gaps and retain our ability to answer emerging and re-occurring issues in support of Hawaii agriculture.

I believe that bill SB314/HB 850 has much merit. I strongly recommend that it be funded. Ongoing funding to support at CTAHR is crucial to the sustainability of Hawaii's diversified agriculture.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our strong support for HB 850.

Jari S.K. Sugano, Mililani, Oahu

Koon-Hui Wang
3050 Maile Way, Rm 310
Honolulu, HI 96822
808-956-2455
koonhui@hawaii.edu

Feb 24, 2015

Re: Support of HB-850

Dear Legislators,

I am writing this letter to support the bill to appropriate moneys for critical positions in UH College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) Cooperative Extension Service. I am a scientist working in CTAHR on applied research that will benefit Hawaii stakeholders. Thus I work closely with CTAHR extension agents for the last 7 years. I understand the significant impact of our Cooperative Extension Service. Through the services provided by CTAHR extension agents, scientists like myself can better transfer the new knowledge and technologies we studied to our local farmers. Due to the economic downfall, CTAHR CES has to work extremely hard to secure funding to continue the rising needs in extension programs for our local farmers. These needs range from battling with new pests and diseases, increase local food crop production to reduce reliance on food imports of Hawaii. To improve Hawaii's self-sustainable status, growing food crops to meet local need is most critical. Currently 85% of our food are imports.

Thanks to the GoFarm Hawaii and Molokai New Farmer Training programs, we have more and more residents in Hawaii who are interested to produce food crops statewide. Unfortunately, growing crops need lots of expertise and is not an easy task. If CTAHR extension work force cannot meet the demand of increasing population of farmers statewide, especially the demand from inexperienced farmers, the effort to encourage more local farming will not fulfill its purpose. Funding to support UH CTAHR CES in the past has been proven successful and benefiting great numbers of local farmers in Hawaii. A list of upcoming events line up for 2015 and recent and past events & workshops can be found at <http://www.ctahr.hawaii.edu/sustainag/events.html> to showcase the productivity of CTAHR extension agents.

I trust that the information provided will be of assistance and will be happy to provide further information, if required.

Yours faithfully,


Koon-Hui Wang, PhD.

Plant Pathologist/Soil Health Scientist

Written Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Finance
Thursday, February 26, 2015; 1:30 pm
by
Jensen Uyeda

HB 850, HD 1 RELATING TO THE AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and members of the House Committee on Finance, thank you for this opportunity to provide personal testimony in strong support of HB 850, HD 1 which provides funding for critical position in the Cooperative Extension Service of the University of Hawaii at Manoa, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources.

My name is Jensen Uyeda and I am from Mililani, Oahu and employed as a Junior Extension Agent by the University of Hawaii at Manoa, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (UH CTAHR). Today, I am providing personal testimony. I am in strong support of this bill provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in the University's Board of Regents Approved Executive Biennium Budget.

The College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources serves as the land grant college that has been federally mandated to provide Cooperative Extension Services (CES) to disseminate research-based information. Historically, individuals, organizations, and communities have turned to the CTAHR for assistance in developing solutions to their critical and emerging problems.

Hawaii's dynamic agriculture industry has prompted the need for responsive, cooperative educational programs in sustainable and responsible farming, marketing, pest management, risk management, and environmental stewardship.

Extension agents are the channel to which agricultural producers access research based information, knowledge, and skills that help correctly identify and utilize specific technology and practices. The UH CTAHR Cooperative Extension Service serves four (4) counties in Hawaii, which are located on five (5) islands within the Hawaiian island chain. Agents are limited in numbers, geographically separated, and must deal with diverse conditions unique to each location. Further, agricultural research that applies to the continental United States is not always applicable to Hawaii's conditions.

Continued applied research, on farm field trials, and retention of Extension Agent positions are needed to fill vacancy gaps and retain our ability to answer emerging and re-occurring issues in support of Hawaii's agriculture.

I believe that bill HB 850, HD 1 has much merit. I strongly recommend that it be funded. Ongoing funding to support CTAHR is crucial to the sustainability of Hawaii's diversified agriculture.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my strong support for HB 850, HD 1.

Jensen Uyeda, Mililani, Oahu

FIN-Jo

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 24, 2015 12:49 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: irisiwami@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB850 on Feb 26, 2015 13:30PM*

HB850

Submitted on: 2/24/2015

Testimony for FIN on Feb 26, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Iris Iwami	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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finance8-Melanie

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Cc: amybrinker@mac.com
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HB850

Submitted on: 2/24/2015

Testimony for FIN on Feb 26, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Amy Brinker	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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To: FINTestimony
Cc: enakayama@beihawaii.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB850 on Feb 26, 2015 13:30PM

HB850

Submitted on: 2/25/2015

Testimony for FIN on Feb 26, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Elaine Nakayama	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Yes. We should have more county agents out there working with our farmers, 4H, etc. The few I have met are doing a great job! They are very dedicated to their jobs and to agriculture. Having more of these types of agents out there will only help for a more positive view on agriculture. It seems lately there is too much bad press on agriculture; although people are willing to eat the food they produce at many functions.

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2029 Nuuanu Ave. #1510
Honolulu, HI 96817
February 25, 2015

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair
House Committee on Finance
Hawaii State Capitol, 415 S. Beretania St.
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and Members of the Committee:

I strongly support HB 850 HD1, which would appropriate funds for critical positions in the UH CTAHR Cooperative Extension Service.

From its inception 100 years ago, the Cooperative Extension Service (CES) has provided essential services to Hawaii's farmers and ranchers. CES has played a critical role in establishing many of the crops that now form much of Hawaii's diversified agriculture, such as macadamia nuts, coffee, papayas, shrimp, and ornamental plants. CES is instrumental in helping Hawaii's farms stay current with new production technologies such as hydroponics, aquaponics, and aquaculture, as well as holding many informative workshops and field days focusing on specific crops. CES provides essential training in food safety, safe pesticide application, and first aid for farm workers. CES also provides many community services including certifying Master Gardeners who assist school and home gardeners, providing activities promoting family and community health and wellness, and sponsoring 4-H clubs for Hawaii's youth.

CES continues to be an essential component of Hawaii's efforts to become more self-sufficient and sustainable. Please support HB 850 HD1 so that Hawaii's farmers can receive the extension services they need to remain productive.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Frederick M. Mencher".

Frederick M. Mencher

Dear Committee members,

We are in strong support of HB 850 appropriating funds for critical positions in the cooperative extension service administered by the UH College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources.

The cooperative extension service is an important resource we as farmers rely on to help manage and resolve the problems and challenges we face on a daily bases. They help us with pest problems, food safety, variety trials for higher yields, new crops, educational workshops, land and water issues, and many other services. We have been farming for over 30 years and the cooperative extension service has always been part of our problem solving and is a major reason for our success. We remember the extension service being a big part of our parents farming solutions. We cannot see farming in Hawaii being sustainable without the help of the cooperative extension services. Please support HB 850!

Respectfully submitted,

Clyde Fukuyama

Melvin Matsuda

Kylie Matsuda

finance1-Kim

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 25, 2015 10:01 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: leimomikekina@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB850 on Feb 26, 2015 13:30PM*

HB850

Submitted on: 2/25/2015

Testimony for FIN on Feb 26, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leimomi Dierks	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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